

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO OCT-01 ITFE-01 SS-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66616

DRAFTED BY IATF:GROSE

APPROVED BY IATF:JTAFT

S/S-O:MTANNER

----- 091272

R 190205Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUHNSAA/CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI MI

CG CAMP PENDLETON CALIFORNIA

CG FORT CHAFFEE ARKANSAS

EGLIN AFB FLORIDA

INDIAN TOWN GAP MILITARY RESERVATION

SECDEF/JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143837

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 15543 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 16 JUN 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 15543

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO GUAM, PENDLETON, CHAFFEE, EGLIN
AND INDIAN TOWN GAP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, CB,

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY TOWARD INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

SUMMARY: THE GOF HAS TO DATE APPROVED ENTRY FOR ABOUT
4,500 INDOCHINESE TO COME TO FRANCE AS REFUGEES. BY
DECEMBER THEY EXPECT TO APPROVE 15,000. LIMITING
FACTORS ARE THE LACK OF RECEPTION CENTERS (THEY ARE
OPPOSED TO LARGE CAMPS) AND OF TRAVEL FUNDS. A BUDGET
RECENTLY VOTED STILL DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS FOR TRAVEL, BUT
CHAYET THOUGHT SOME GOF ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.
TO DATE ICEM HAS BEEN HELPFUL. IN ADDITION, GOF WAS
CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE ARRIVAL IN FRANCE OF FRENCH
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CITIZENS FROM VIETNAM. CHAYET SAID THAT GOF CONTINUED
TO GIVE A LOWER PRIORITY TO REFUGEES IN THE U.S. SYSTEM
BECAUSE IT WAS STILL PROCESSING THOSE IN SEA WITH MORE
URGENT PROBLEMS. INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE SENT FOR FRENCH

CONSULAR OFFICERS TO VISIT THE CAMPS TO IDENTIFY AND PROCESS REFUGEES COMING TO FRANCE. THOSE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO SETTLE SUCCESSFULLY IN FRANCE (WITH A SPONSOR AND A PROFESSION) WOULD PROBABLY HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS APPROVED, HAVING RELATIVES HERE WOULD HELP, BUT LACK OF RELATIVES WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN REJECTION. CHAYET THOUGHT AN INVENTORY OF INDOCHINESE IN US SYSTEM BY PROFESSION WOULD BE USEFUL, AND WE SUGGESTDHE ASK WHEN THE GOF NEEDED SUCH INFORMATION. END SUMMARY

1. ON JUNE 16 AMBASSADOR CLAUDE CHAYET, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENTIONS AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, GAVE IATF DEPUTY DIRECTOR FRANK WISNER AND EMBOFF THE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON THE FRENCH PROGRAM:

AS OF TODAY THE GOF HAS GIVEN AUTHORIZATION FOR 4,000 TO 4,500 INDOCHINESE TO COME TO FRANCE AS REFUGEES. OF THIS NUMBER 1,700 TO 1,800 HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED INCLUDING SOME FROM THE U.S. AND GUAM. OTHERS HAVE ARRIVED FROM HONG KONG, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND AND KOREA. CHAYET COMMENTED THAT FOR THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS THE GOF COULD NOT EXCEED THE PRESENT RATE OF APPROVALS WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 350 PER WEEK. ACCORDING TO CURRENT CALCULATIONS BASED ON REPORTS FROM THEIR POSTS AND EXPERIENCE TO DATE, GOF EXPECTS TO APPROVE ANOTHER 10,000 REFUGEES BY DECEMBER BRINGING THE TOTAL WHICH THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT TO APPROXIMATELY 15,000. SINCE THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 15,000 INDOCHINESE NONPERMANENT RESIDENTS IN FRANCE AS OF DECEMBER 1974, THE POPULATION WILL JUST ABOUT DOUBLE.

2. CHAYET SAID THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS GOVERNING THE CURRENT RATE OF APPROVALS AND ACCEPTANCES TO FRANCE WAS THE LACK OF RECEPTION CENTERS; THE GOF WISHES TO AVOID IF POSSIBLE LARGE CAMPS. THEREFORE THOSE REFUGEES WHICH CAN BE IMMEDIATELY TAKEN IN HAND BY RELATIVES OR FRIENDS HAVE TO DATE BEEN GIVEN PRIORITY. CONFIDENTIAL

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ANOTHER FACTOR HAS BEEN THE LACK OF PROVISION IN THE FRENCH BUDGET FOR FUNDS TO PAY FOR TRAVEL TO FRANCE; THE GOF HAD BEEN PLEASED THAT ICEM HAS BEEN ABLE FREQUENTLY TO PROVIDE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE UNABLE TO PAY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH, LENOIR (SOCIAL ACTION) HAS BEEN NAMED COORDINATOR OF THE PROGRAM OF AID TO REFUGEES. THEY NOW HAVE FUNDS WHICH WILL BE USED FOR PURPOSES SIMILAR TO THOSE RESOURCES THE USG PROVIDES VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THESE FUNDS WILL NOT, HOWEVER, TAKE CARE OF ANY TRANSPORTATION OR SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP FAMILIES WHO HAVE SPONSORED THEIR RELATIVES. CHAYET SAID THAT IF THERE WERE ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN FRANCE WHO DESIRED TO GO TO THE US, THE GOF WOULD BE

PREPARED TO INTERVENE WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR TRAVEL FUNDS. IN ADDITION HE THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT RPT MIGHT BE WORKED OUT FOR THE GOF TO ASSIST IN GETTING REFUGEES TO FRANCE, PERHAPS THROUGH ICEM.

3. THE FRENCH HAVE TO DATE HAD NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE WITH THOSE WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN FRANCE. TO A LARGE EXTENT THIS IS BECAUSE THEY GAVE PRIORITY TO THOSE WITH

ADEQUATE PERSONAL FUNDS. THEY ANTICIPATE GREATER PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE WHEN THE PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEES WITHOUT RESOURCES MAY INCREASE. IN ADDITION, THEY MUST BE PREPARED TO TAKE IN, AS REFUGEES, MANY FRENCH CITIZENS FROM VIETNAM. CHAYET SAID THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 2,300 FRENCH CITIZENS BORN IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE. IN ADDITION SOME 7,500 WERE FRENCH CITIZENS OF INDO-CHINESE ORIGIN, MANY OF WHOM MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THE VN TO HAVE ALSO VN CITIZENSHIP. FROM HIS EXPERIENCE AS AMBASSADOR IN HANOI, CHAYET THOUGHT IT VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE NEW REGIME IN SVN WOULD PERMIT PERSONS THEY CHOOSE TO CONSIDER VIETNAM NATIONALS (WHO MAY ALSO HAVE FRENCH NATIONALITY) OR VN NATIONALS WHO ARE DEPENDENTS OF FRENCH CITIZENS TO LEAVE SVN.

4. CHAYET REITERATED THE GOF IS CURRENTLY GIVING PRIORITY TO REFUGEES IN THAILAND, MALAYSIA, HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE. THE GOF SAW THAT THOSE WHO ARE IN THE UNITED STATES WERE AT LEAST HOUSED, FED AND GIVEN MEDICAL CARE. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PRIORITY OF RESPONSE TO THOSE IN THE U.S. SYSTEM WOULD BE AUGMENTED WHEN THOSE CASES WHICH WERE MORE URGENT HAD BEEN PROCESSED. CHAYET SAID THAT HE WOULD SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES TO GO TO THE REFUGEE CENTERS WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN INVITED TO DO SO BY U.S. AUTHORITIES. CHAYET SUGGESTED THAT WHEN REFUGEES AT A RECEPTION CENTER REQUEST RESETTLEMENT IN FRANCE, SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATORS SHOULD CONTACT THE NEAREST FRENCH CONSULATE AND ASK FOR A FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICER TO VISIT.

5. CHAYET SAID THAT THE PROCESSING OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM WOULD BE GREATLY FACILITATED IF THE GOF COULD GET THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS: (1) WHAT IS THE FULL BIOGRAPHIC INFO AND PRESENT CAMP LOCATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WISHED TO COME TO FRANCE? (2) DOES HE HAVE A SPONSOR, A RELATIVE OR A CLOSE FRIEND WHO IS PREPARED TO HELP? (3) WHAT IS HIS PROFESSION? (4) CAN HE PAY FOR THE TRIP TO FRANCE? CHAYET COMMENTED THAT THE DESIRE TO COME TO FRANCE WAS NOT THE ONLY CRITERION; THE PRINCIPLE WAS RESOLVING EACH CASE FOR THE BETTER. IF THE FRENCH NOTED

FROM HIS CASE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE BETTER TO SETTLE
IN THE UNITED STATES, THEN THE FRENCH WOULD USUALLY
DECIDE HE SHOULD STAY THERE REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE MIGHT
WISH AT THE TIME. CHAQET SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT
ESSENTIAL THAT THE REFUGEES HAVE RELATIVES IN FRANCE,
IT IS ONE OF THE FACTORS FAVORING APPROVAL.

6. CHAYET SAID THAT ONLY A FEW VIETNAMESE WOULD BE
WELCOMED IN NEW CALEDONIA AND PERHAPS THE NEW HERBIDES,
WHERE THE UK WAS OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING THEM IN LARGE
NUMBERS. THE FRENCH GATHERED THAT SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES
SUCH AS THE IVORY COAST WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE SOME
REFUGGES IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALREADY THERE.

7. IN RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER OF INFORMATION, CHAYET
THOUGHT THAT AN INVENTORY OF INDOCHINESE IN U.S. SYSTEM
BY PROFESSION MIGHT BE OF SOME USE IN ASSISTING OTHER
GOVERNMENTS IN REQUESTING THOSE REFUGEES WITH TRAINING
IN SHORT SUPPLY IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. WE SUGGESTED
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THAT WHEN THE GOF NEEDED SUCH INFORMATION IT CONTACT
US.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, REFUGEE RELIEF, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE143837
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IATF:GROSE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750213-0371
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506102/baaaaanap.tel
Line Count: 193
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971031
Subject: n/a
TAGS: SREF, CB, FR, VS
To: n/a INFO RUHNSAA CINCPACREP GUAM TTPI MI
CG CAMP PENDLETON CALIFORNIA
CG FORT CHAFFEE ARKANSAS
EGLIN AFB FLORIDA
INDIAN TOWN GAP MILITARY RESERVATION
SECDEF JCS

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006